

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
SHANNON WILKERSON - VIRTUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Joseph Frazier
Councilwoman Tassie Lewis	Councilman Ronald Atkinson
Councilman Ralph Atkinson	Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt
Councilman Michael Baker	

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator
Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer
James Brogdon, City Attorney

Mayor Ashley Brady stated that he does have one order of business. We need to see if we could amend the agenda. The agenda you have in front of you is amended but have in front of you is amended but we have a resolution from a CDBG about recognizing April as fair housing month resolution. He'd like to amend the agenda to approve the resolution for fair housing month in the City of Marion. ***A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier. A brief discussion took place.*** The motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to approve that the month of April be Fair Housing Resolution. The motion carried.

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Ashley Brady.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ashley Brady said prayer and pledge.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY

Mayor Ashley Brady welcomed all guest.

4. APPROVE MINUTES –

- Regular Meeting – March 9, 2021

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to approve the minutes for the Regular scheduled Meeting. The motion carried.

5. FEBUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY

Mayor mentioned as always it is his pleasure to recognize the employee of the month. This month our employee of the month. He has been with us for a short time but has been doing a great job. Mr. Sincere Smith. Sincere drives our Grapper truck. As you all may know we got t new Grapper truck back in January and Mr. Sincere is a driver for that. He is doing a great job. We appreciate what you are doing. One thing about the Grapper truck we are able to get around and pick up this trash and not messing up anybody’s back. He does a great job of taking care of that truck.

6. HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMITTEE – 5 YEAR TERM

- Scott Collins – appoint March 2021 for term to expire March 2026
- Latonia Graves – appoint March 2021 for a term to expire March 2026
- Lisa Seabrook – reappoint March 2021 for term to expire March 2026
- Sally Davis – Reappoint March 2021 for term to expire March 2026

We have to reappoint these individuals to another five year term. To be reappointed is Mr. Scott Collins, Latonia Graves, Lisa Seabrook, Sally Davis to expire March of 2026.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve the Housing Authority Committee another five year term.

7. REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL – MICHELL APPLEWHITE

Mrs. Michell Applewhite Sanders started and mentioned that some may know about her story, but just a couple of things she would like to mention. What she wants to do with her church (Sandy Grove Holiness Church) is do something for Gun Violence awareness week. Which will be the first week in June, that Saturday June 4th. We had something planned for last year but with Corona Virus we had to cancel it.

The first son I lost he was shot and killed on Mother's Day 2007 in Marion what I didn't tell you about him is he escaped Marion and got away. He moved to Atlanta. He came home at 2:00 a.m. on the 13th just to see me for Mother's Day and was to leave that night going back to Atlanta. He was shot and killed about 10:00. Never got a chance to leave Marion. One other thing I didn't tell you was he was in the gifted program. Tyrick my other son was in the gifted program (this one is paralyzed now). June of last year he said "Ma I'm leaving Marion this is too much going on. I want to get out of here." He moved to Virginia where he was stationed at in the Navy. Well he loved dirt bikes. He decided on a Wednesday that he was coming to pick up his dirt bike. He was going to leave Wednesday night going back to Virginia, but decided he would spend the night and go home in the morning (He got 6 kids). He got shot Wednesday night. He escape Marion but they came back home. The thing is both of them came back for just a day. So what I intend to do is address some of the gun violence that's going on in Marion. Now I never mentioned I have a 16 year old he not only was in the gifted program, but also a honor student. As a mother I am terrified, terrified for him to graduate here. Terrified for him to leave home because two son's down. What might happen to him? As a mother it is scary. I have to do something. I can't sit back idle and just wait for change to happen, because I have him, he is 16. In two more years what can happen. I have 3 grandson's (6, 7 and 5). They are coming along. I have to protect them. I have to do whatever is needed to protect them. That's my legacy, my future so I'm just asking you all to allow me with my Church to come out into the community to make them aware of what's really going on out here. A lot of people go home, cut the light off and that's it, they have no idea what's really going on out here with these kids. I would like to have

someone from the Department of Juvenile Justice, that dealing with these smaller kids up to maybe probation, someone that works at a Federal facility, someone that works at a State facility to make these children understand. I understand what's waiting if they don't curve their behavior. The boy that killed the oldest son I met him through a friend of mine. I took two hours out of my day sat down with him, He had to be no more than thirteen or fourteen and told him you grew up in Jersey. Jersey slap you on the wrist and send you home. These folks down here ain't going to play with you. You don't stop hanging around the people you hanging around, you don't stop being in these streets you're going to get something you not looking for. I'd never imagine that the same boy I took two to three hours out of my life to talk to, to warn about the danger would be the same young man that would turn around and shot my son dead. He didn't know my son. He had never met him, because my son was off in the military and then went to Atlanta, but just to show I took time with this young man explain to him the dangers and he was the same one who picked up the gun and killed my son, and the thing is a week before he shot my son this man shot Lee Street (AK47), shot up a home on Lee Street, but he was back on the Street a week later to take my son's life. Something has to be done. I just want to bring some kind of awareness to the citizens of this county and let them know what's really going on. My concern is Marion County. This is where my passion is. This is where my family is, Children are. I need to address the parents that have lost children. That's my real passion. For thirteen years working behind the scenes. I went to every single mother that's lost a child in this country. Anybody that I knew lost a child. I went too personally and sat down and just tried to just walk them through the darkness because if you never lost a child, never buried a child you'll never understand that darkness. It's an unexplainable darkness. I just want to bring light to the situation of what's going on in Marion County. There are a lot of things we want to do later but right now I would just like to do something on Saturday, June 4th maybe at Pop Dorsey Park to bring awareness to what's going on in this community.

Mayor Ashley Brady stated that he left the program the other day and the way you presented it making sure you got to the parents. We will get with Chief Crawford and get back with you.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt mention for Mrs. Michell to get a date and give the information to Mr. Ammons with that park you definitely have decided on.

Councilwoman Tassie also added that we have several parks and we are just making sure you are aware of what we have. Just know that we are here to support

8. **ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

- **Covid-19 – City Operations**

Mr. Alan Ammons started out speaking on covid-19. We are migrating a little to get our operations back to one hundred percent. (passed out a sheet where they are offering vaccine around the county. Sellers tomorrow, Nichols Thursday still had openings for the 1B class. Basically, from what's being said the 1B class is everybody, if your employed, 55 and up. The ones we have had in the last few weeks have been great. The gyms were full. So, seems like CVS and Walmart are now offering the vaccine so we got several places throughout. Hopefully by May 1 if everything still going good as they are now, we should be pretty be pretty much 100% caught up on safety guidelines; social distancing, mask wearing.

- **City Party Discussion**

We didn't have it last year because of the virus. Just wanted to bring to Council's attention. The floor is open for some discussion. I know we cannot have banquet but maybe just have a luncheon for the employees and recognize years of service (kind of like we did at Christmas time).

Mayor Brady added at Christmas time we were spaced out. At the same time recognize our employee's for working hard and years of service. April 6 at 1:00 in the afternoon. Brief discussion went on.

9. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney mentioned it is just good seeing you all, and he did not have anything.

10. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady: Mayor stated in front of the Council members they have the number to call phase 1B for those who are 55 and over and he encourages everyone to pass that information along to family, Church groups, however you get the word out so everyone can get vaccinated.

The City hosted MUSC at CD Joyner and gave around 700 shots. The following day DHEC was at AC Tollison. In a two weeks' time we got a little over twenty-one hundred shots, and so that is good for our City at large. Thank you to MUSC and DHEC for arranging that.

Last week of course February was Black History. We recognize Black History month. We tried to do it as an outdoor event, but it kept raining. So, we decided to do it inside CD Joyner spread body out. Had a good program last week with black history month.

Proclamation was signed and presented to Reverend Hemingway.

We had a stormwater project on Bobby L. Davis, and they started on that project today. It will be probably a couple of weeks before they get it completed. They are going to have to shut down bobby L. Davis Blvd for a short period of time when they get to that point so they can put that new pipe underneath the road.

If you've been riding around Marion you seen the work on Godbold St., and a little bit of work on Godbold St. and a little bit of work on North Main on some paving projects.

DOT is working on the sidewalks on Godbold St. and getting that ready. They will do all the sidewalk and concrete work first then they will come in and mill it (the contractor will mill it) and then they will mill it, and then re pave Godbold St. (from Withlacoochee to the aisle of Circle K), so that project has started. So, for those who have been around Marion for a number of years know at Spring St. and Bethlehem St. right across the street from the carwash when we get a heavy rain it becomes a lake. Well, we got with Mr. Harold Coleman and DOT and said we keep cleaning these roads, but we have a

problem. Well Dot shut the road down the day before yesterday went in and dug up the road and sure enough they had an old concrete pipe had collapsed. It would eventually flow through, but they cut all that out. Cut the street patched it so now when we go back and pave Godbold St. we don't have to be digging that section up. We do have one little section behind the convenient store we will eventually have to work on, but at least we don't have to be cutting up a perfectly paved road. He thinks that the majority of the problem was at that collapsed pipe.

They are starting to work on North Main St. working on cutting sidewalks and making them ADA compliance. They will be paving Georgetown St. here in the next two to three weeks as well. Last week we had received a letter from a Church to pave Henry McGill St. The South Carolina DOT is getting us some cost estimates and soon as they give us that we can go back to CTC and request funding for that St. We have hit them pretty hard in the last quarter, so they said get some of your projects out the way before you come back to the table, but we are going to come back to the table looking for some more money with our hands out for Henry McGill and some other streets here in town.

Councilman Michael Baker: Councilman Michael Baker stated that during the last few weeks he and Alan went out and took care of everything.

Councilman Joseph Frazier: Councilman Joseph Frazier didn't have anything.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson: Councilman Ronald Atkinson would just like to thank Mrs. Applewhite for coming and sharing with us tonight. He also would like to wish good luck to Councilman Baker, and Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt, and Councilwoman Tassie Lewis succession on your reelection.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson: Councilman Ralph Atkinson wanted to thank everyone for what they are doing. Alan keeps things going.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis: Councilwoman would like to say thank you again, and thank you to Mrs. Applewhite. We all support you, and know that we work together.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt: Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt wants to thank everyone and best wishes on reelection.

Brief discussion went on from Councilman Michael Baker.

Mayor thanked Mrs. Applewhite for coming.

14. ADJOURMENT

A motion was made by both Councilman Michael Baker and Councilman Ralph Atkinson to adjourn. The motion carried

Mayor Ashley Brady

Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk
March 9, 2021